

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

January 19, 2007

## Message From County Executive Walker

*This week, Milwaukee County's Director of Administrative Services, Linda Seemeyer, resigned from her position to take a new job with Walworth County. Linda has been with my administration almost since I first took office in 2002. She has been one of my closest advisors and has been instrumental in putting into practice many of the reforms that were necessary to turn Milwaukee County around. Linda has been a valuable asset to me and remains a good friend.*

*When I came into office in 2002, it was with a clear mandate from the people of Milwaukee County to return the public trust to this position and to undo some of the destructive policies that were enacted in the past. Linda was tasked with implementing many of these changes and I am pleased to announce that she has been extremely successful in that endeavor. The backdrop benefits that have plagued this county are eliminated for new employees. The health care benefits that continue to place a tremendous burden on Milwaukee County's budget have been brought into line. Linda has also been instrumental in streamlining our workforce to ensure that Milwaukee County operates in a lean and efficient manner.*

*We still have a lot of work to do, but thanks to Linda's hard work and expertise, Milwaukee County is on the right track. I wish her all the best in her new position.*

**Scott**

## County Executive Cabinet Update

On Thursday, County Executive Walker announced he has nominated Rob Henken, Director of Health and Human Services, to serve as Director of Administrative Services.

Henken's career as a public servant includes: Director of Research/Fiscal and Budget Analyst for the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Staff Director for the House Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, and Chief of Staff and Legislative Director in the United States Congress.

Other changes in Walker's cabinet are:

Cynthia Archer has been nominated to fill the position of Budget Administrator, replacing Steve Agostini, who moved to the Philadelphia area.

Greg Gracz, the former president of the Milwaukee firefighters union, has been nominated to fill the position of Director of Labor Relations.

Archer and Gracz's nominations will be taken up by the board in February.

Earlier in the month, Human Resources Director Chuck McDowell announced his retirement. Walker and his staff are actively working on replacements for Henken and McDowell.

"It is normal in any administration to have changes in top staff," said Walker. "I am very grateful for the contributions that my cabinet has made and I am confident that these new members will continue my agenda of reform for Milwaukee County."

## Valentines For Soldiers This Weekend

The War Memorial Center, Wisconsin We Care, the Veteran's Parade of Milwaukee and Fox 6 TV are teaming up for the Valentines For Soldiers campaign. They are collecting needed items to be shipped to Wisconsin soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan in time for Valentines Day. Items can be dropped off at the War Memorial, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive. Drop off dates and times are Friday, January 19, from 8 am to 6 pm and Saturday, January 20, from 8 am to 2 pm. Items needed include:

Valentines cards with personal messages

Personal hygiene items

Non-perishable snacks in original packages

You can [click here](#) for more information and for a full list of needed items.

## Where's Walker?

County Executive Walker continues to engage the community in a dialogue about county issues.

On Tuesday, he spoke at the Kiwanis Club of Wauwatosa, and on Friday he gave a speech at the Northern Trust Economic Trends 2007 breakfast at the Pfister Hotel. The event was sponsored by the Northern Trust, the Small Business Times, and WISN radio.

Walker will be speaking at a number of civic groups and community centers over the next few months to talk about the state of the county. If you would like County Executive Walker to speak at an event or meeting, please e-mail Dorothy Moore at [dmoore2@milwcnty.com](mailto:dmoore2@milwcnty.com).

## Walker Attends Events To Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King

This past week, County Executive Walker attended a number of events to celebrate the life and legacy of civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Sunday, Walker, Mayor Barrett and Chris Abele served as Honorary Co-Chairs of Milwaukee's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

On Monday, he spoke at the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King breakfast at the Midwest Airlines Center.

Following that, Walker spoke at the NAACP's King/Rosa Parks celebration at Milwaukee City Hall.

On Monday evening Walker was joined by Chairman Lee Holloway, Supervisor Elizabeth Coggins-Jones, and Parks Director Sue Black in hosting the annual celebration at the county's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 1531 West Vliet Street.



County Executive Walker speaks at the YMCA Breakfast